

Coast to Coast

Recognizing that there are more sailmakers in business than just those whose ads you're apt to see in glossy publications, we canvassed a number of representative businesses around the U.S., asking what they'd offer our particular customer in the way of a cruising asymmetrical spinnaker. There are dozens of other lofts out there, so this sidebar stands as only a partial presentation of the many options available.

Harry Pattison of **Elliot Pattison Sails** responded to our request for a quote by telling us that the company builds asymmetrical cruising spinnakers in two versions: an Offshore and a Weekender. All sails are designed and built at the company's facility in Newport Beach, Calif. The Offshore model features an all tri-radial panel layout while the Weekender utilizes vertical panels in the foot section. This latter approach, he said, keeps the stronger warp yarns aligned with the vertical loads coming out of the tack and clew while also keeping the price down. All sails are computer designed and the panels are cut by a CAD cutter. Given our scenario, Pattison said he'd recommend a Weekender, built out of .75-ounce nylon with a 165 percent girth resulting in a 796-square-foot sail. This sail would cost \$1,904, but a 10 percent discount for online orders knocked that down to \$1,713.60. By adding an ATN Sleeve and a Tacker, the full freight would be \$2,177, with a one-year warranty.

Aaron Jasper of **Jasper & Bailey Sailmakers** in Newport, R.I., offered his company's Cruising Star, which features all-radial construction "for the best possible

thread line orientation to reduce stretch and eliminate bias distortion." He told us that this sail would be effective with the apparent wind from 60 to 140 degrees. Should we want to sail lower than that using the sail, the owner's guide Jasper provides with each sail offers information on the best way to do that. For easier sail-handling, his company recommends coupling the Cruising Star with ATN's Sleeve, and Jasper has dubbed that combination the Cruise Control system. He offered us a 753-square-foot Cruising Star, built out of .75-ounce nylon with a girth of 21.6 feet for \$2,130. Throw in the ATN Sleeve (\$420), and that would be \$2,550. The sail carries a one-year warranty.

FX Sails is an online sail loft that builds custom mainsails, headsails, and spinnakers. For this scenario, Sandy Goodall, head of design for FX Sails and former technical director for Elvström Sails, recommends an 891-square-foot asymmetrical spinnaker with 12 head panels constructed of .75-ounce Challenge Fleetwing nylon. "A modern design like this," said Goodall, "can reach quite well and quite high in light to medium conditions, close-reaching up to 70 degrees apparent wind angle in about 3 to 8 knots of breeze." This sail, with an ATN Snuffer and Tacker, would be priced at \$2,557 and would carry a three-year warranty. But FX Sails offers two other options: an A-sail generated by the firm's online quoting system (829 square feet, 1.5-ounce nylon with an ATN Snuffer and Tacker, for \$2,101), and a sail from the company's sister site at The Sail Store (www.thesailstore.com).



FX Sails offered three different quotes for sail/snuffer packages ranging from \$1,877 to \$2,557.

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com). (899 square feet, 1.5-ounce nylon, with the ATN Sleeve and Tacker, \$1,877).

Somerset Sails in Barker, N.Y., specializes in mail orders. It quoted a tri-radial asymmetrical spinnaker out of .75-ripstop nylon with any color or combination of colors the buyer would like. The price of \$1,930 would include a Chutescoop, but not a strop or shipping. The company offers one of the most appealing warranty arrangements: It will repair the sail for free as long as the original purchaser still owns the boat.